

Drug Policy Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2007

Voting Council Members Present: Chairman Gary Kendell, Charlotte Burt, Ken Carter, Paul Stageberg, Dean Austin, Stewart Barnes, Pam Dettmann, Brian Vos, Chris Wilson, John Garringer, and Jane Larkin.

Non-voting Council Members Present: Stephan Arndt, Col. Michael Jensen, and Bill Roach.

Guests: Tom Newton, Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Staff Present: Dale Woolery, Dennis Wiggins, Becky Swift, Terry Graham and Becky Bell.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Director Kendell at the new Public Safety Building. Council members introduced themselves.

Jane Larkin and John Garringer were appointed by Governor Culver as new council members. Jane reported that she has been with Youth and Shelter Services since graduating from College. She worked in their chemical dependency branch for 11 ½ years and is a certified drug and alcohol counselor. She just recently moved the prevention department. She is very excited about being appointed to this board.

John Garringer has been the Director of Area Substance Abuse Councils, Inc. (ASAC) over the past twenty years. ASAC is one of the larger substance abuse treatment and prevention programs in the state, serving the Linn, Benton, Jones, Jackson and Clinton counties. ASAC has approximately 200 employees and roughly a \$10 million per year budget. They have large prevention and outpatient programs, women and children programs, and a number of other services. He is very anxious to join this group.

Tom Newton has seven years of experience with the Department of Public Health. Before coming to the Department of Public Health he worked in local public health in Washington and Black Hawk counties for about four years. He stated that substance abuse has a broader scope and impacts a far greater number of people than many of the other public health issues the department deals with. Substance abuse is a major public health issue and the work that is being done with the co-occurring academy and Department of Human Services will be a priority.

Paul Stageberg motioned that the Minutes of March 28, 2007 be approved. Pam Dettmann seconded and the Council unanimously voted to approve.

Update on Meeting with Iowa Congressional Delegation

Director Kendell reported that the Byrne/JAG awards were released and ODCP received a little more than the forecast of last fall. ODCP will be receiving 2.6 million

dollars for pass-through programs. ODCP also will get an appropriation from the State to bridge the 1.8 million dollar loss of COPS/Meth funding. This should allow ODCP to maintain funding at the current level for the next year.

Director Kendell went to Washington, DC, April 24 -27,for Byrne Drugs Week. The National Criminal Justice Association sponsored a “Hill Day” and Director Kendell met with all the delegation or their staff. All expressed their support for Byrne/JAG and they want to see funding increased. They all recognize the impact that the funding has on local communities.

Senator Harkin introduced a bill dealing with treatment, and prevention and included jail-based programs. Director Kendell stated that it seems like the focus this year will be on treatment and prevention programs.

Director Kendell said that the local Byrne/JAG grants have been received and funding decisions will be made by June 1.

Sharing of State/Federal Policy & Funding Developments

Director Kendell reported that one of ODCP’s legislative priorities for next year will be to increase the alcohol tax to \$1.00 a gallon. The \$1.00 a gallon increase would amount to approximately ten cents per serving. The current tax is at nineteen cents. It would be requested that the revenue from this increase come to ODCP for prevention, treatment and law enforcement programs.

Iowa sells over 74 million gallons of beer each year. Director Kendell feels the best chance for success would be to put funding initiatives in one bill and get support from all affected parties, thus providing a unified approach when the bill is presented to the legislature.

Paul Stageberg asked how Iowa’s beer tax ranks in comparison to surrounding states. Iowa’s beer ranks lower than most states, however Wisconsin and Missouri are lower than Iowa.

Bill Roach reported that the Attorney General’s office worked on a tobacco tax increase for last ten years before its passage.

Pam referred back to when ODCP staff began working to get the pseudoephedrine bill passed. She commented on how early you have to start working on a bill as it took the pseudo bill two years before it passed.

Chris Wilson asked about getting grassroots support. Director Kendell would like the Council to access their contacts/associations and work with Alliance of Coalition for Change as they have already expressed interest in working to raise the beer tax.

Director Kendell is hoping to get the treatment, prevention, and enforcement communities united behind this legislation as the only legitimate chance for success. ODCP will rely heavily on council members and their contacts at the grassroots level.

John Garringer reported that the Iowa Substance Abuse Program Director's Association has been talking about the desire to have an increase in the alcohol tax for years but the message they have received the last few years is the alcohol lobby is too strong.

The alcohol tax was last increased in 1986. A suggestion was made that the tax be phased in a little bit each year until it reached \$1.00. Director Kendell would like to keep this option open only as a compromise.

Director Kendell asked the Council for program suggestions for funding uses. Some suggestions were: drug courts (existing and expanding) and funding for juvenile programs.

Bill Roach asked Director Kendell if research had been done on consumption with that kind of tax increase and in particular if there is a correlation between tax increases and binge drinking.

Bill Roach discussed two obstacles that he would like members to think about. The first one is reluctance by the Legislature to earmark funding. The second obstacle is funding for road improvements, which is a high priority item.

DPAC Planning Retreat

Becky Swift reported that on November 9, 2006, ODCP held a planning retreat. One of the purposes of the retreat was to begin looking at priorities for the Council for that year. After a day of discussion and small group work three general priority areas were recommended.

The three priorities are as follows: 1) Development of a leadership collaboration, 2) Funding the full continuum prevention, intervention, treatment aftercare, etc, and 3) Restoration of lost federal funding – especially enforcement and criminal justice.

After those priorities were identified, discussion was held on objectives, accomplishments of the priorities, potential stakeholders and next steps.

Since the retreat was held we have a new administration, new director and new council members.

Becky Swift asked the Council if they would like repeat this process over again in August or look at the three priorities from last years retreat and continue to flush them out.

Ken Carter stated that he would like continue to work on the identified priorities but he would also like to hear the thoughts of the new members

Chris Wilson stated that it would be helpful if council members didn't have to spend so much time discussing new ideas. She asked if members could submit new ideas and get started by voting to see if last year's priorities remain the top three.

Becky Swift asked if council members would like to put these priorities on hold until August and asked members to submit to her other issues of high importance. First thing at the retreat, all the issues will be discussed (new and old) and then a vote will be taken. Priorities will be selected early on and then the rest of the day will be spent flushing them out.

2008 Meeting Dates

The 2008 meeting dates are as follows: February 14, May 8, August 14 and November 13. The February, May and November meetings will be from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The planning retreat will be held August 8 and will be from 9:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Other Business

Council members received an updated roster list.

The Governor's Office is planning a training session for all 2007 Council/Board member appointees and they have tentatively selected Tuesday, October 2 for the date of the session.

Director Kendell said that ODCP will continue to push for pseudoephedrine tracking next year. Senator's Grassley and Durbin introduced a bill that will provide a funding source for states to develop electronic tracking systems. There will be ten grants of 300 hundred thousands each. ODCP is planning to apply for one of those grants.

The Salvia divinorum bill passed the House and was voted out of committee in the Senate and then stalled. It is hoped that this bill will pass during the next session.

Adjournment

Pam Dettmann motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Paul Stageberg seconded and the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be the planning retreat and will be held August 9, 2007 at a location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Bell